FACT SHEET

EPA Region 7

Hastings Ground Water Contamination Site
South Landfill Subsite
Hastings, Nebraska ***July 2000***

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

EPA will hold a public meeting Thursday, July 20, 2000, at 7:00 p.m. at the Hastings Public Library, 517 West 4th Street, Hastings, Nebraska. The purpose of the meeting is to provide you with information on the Proposed Plan.

EPA is asking for comments on the Proposed Plan. Comments can be made orally or in writing at the public meeting or can be mailed to the address listed below. The 30-day comment period opened June 30, 2000, and closes July 31, 2000.

The Proposed Plan is part of a file containing site-related documents, called the Administrative Record File. The file is available for public review during normal business hours at the Hastings Public Library and at the EPA Region 7 office in Kansas City, Kansas.

Written comments (post-marked no later than July 31, 2000), can be sent to:

Dana Blubaugh
Environmental Protection Agency
Office of External Programs
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is releasing a Proposed Plan with a preferred alternative for the Interim Remedial Action to address soil and ground water contamination at the South Landfill Subsite of the Hastings Ground Water Contamination Site in Hastings, Nebraska. The Proposed Plan also includes summaries of other clean-up alternatives evaluated for use at the site.

EPA is taking comments on the Proposed Plan until July 31, 2000. After reviewing comments received during the public comment period, EPA, in coordination with the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ), will make a decision on the final clean-up remedy for the site. EPA and NDEQ may modify the preferred alternative or select another action based on new information or comments made by the public. The decision will be published in a Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD will also include a summary of EPA's responses to the comments received during the public comment period.

SITE BACKGROUND

The Hastings Groundwater Contamination Site in Hastings, Nebraska, consists of an aquifer contaminated with hazardous substances as well as the contaminated soils that overlie the aquifer. The Hastings South Landfill is one of seven subsites which make up the Hastings Ground Water Contamination Site. The site was divided into seven subsites based on the various sources of the contamination. The South Landfill Subsite is approximately 58 acres in area and is located southeast of the

central business district of Hastings. The subsite is bounded by the abandoned Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way tracks on the south, the Good Samaritan Village retirement complex on the north, farmland on the east, and U.S. Highway 6 on the west.

The site was originally a clay pit. Borrow operations ceased in the 1950s, and the pit was abandoned. The property was later operated as a municipal landfill by the City of Hastings from the early 1960s to the early 1980s, and accepted both municipal and industrial waste.

Investigations performed by EPA contractors, beginning in the 1980s, identified potential impacts to ground water at the subsite. EPA has since conducted a number of studies of the area and installed monitoring wells within the boundaries of the South Landfill Subsite. EPA's investigations have determined that wastes buried in the South Landfill have contaminated, and may continue to contaminate, the ground water beneath and down gradient of the subsite.

REMEDIAL ACTION OBJECTIVES

The objectives for this Remedial Action include:

- ❒ Restoring the acquifer to drinking water standards within a reasonable time frame.
- ❒ Minimizing future migration of ground water contamination.
- ❒ Reducing or eliminating further contamination of ground water.
- ❒ Minimizing or eliminating contaminant migration to the ground water and surface water to levels that ensure the beneficial reuse of the resources.

EVALUATED ALTERNATIVES

EPA evaluated five alternatives to address the landfill and the landfill soils. Those alternatives are listed below. A more detailed description of each alternative is included in the Proposed Plan for the South Landfill Subsite.

- ❒ (S-1) No action.
- ❒ (S-2) Surface Water Controls and Clay and Soil Cap.
- ❒ (S-3) Surface Water Controls and Phytocap.
- ❒ (S-4) Surface Water Controls and Composite Cap.
- ❒ (S-5) Surface Water Controls and Geosynthetic Clay Liner (GCL) Cap.

EPA also evaluated five remedial alternatives to address ground water contamination. Those alternatives are listed below. A more detailed description of each alternative is included in the Proposed Plan for the South Landfill Subsite.

- ❒ (G-1) No action.

❒ (G-2) Ground Water Use Restrictions, Hydraulic Containment Using Vertical Extraction Wells and Discharge to Off-Site Facility.

❒ (G-3) Ground Water Use Restrictions and Chemical Containment Using Sparge Curtain.

❒ (G-4) Ground Water Use Restrictions, Hydraulic Containment Using Vertical Extraction Wells, Treatment by Carbon Adsorption, and Discharge to On-Site Stream.

❒ (G-5) Ground Water Use Restrictions and Natural Attenuation.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

EPA's preferred alternative for addressing the contamination meets the requirements for overall protection of human health and the environment and consists of the following:

❒ Alternative S-5: Surface Water Controls and GCL Cap for Soil and Landfill Contents

✶ The GCL cap is a single-layer design, which is effective in minimizing infiltration and exposure to the contents of the landfill.

✶ Low construction and operation and maintenance costs.

✶ Complies with current state regulations.

✶ Grading improvements will provide good drainage and eliminate low areas where water currently pools.

✶ Will provide a vegetated and graded area that is compatible with the residential, recreational, and agricultural areas that surround the landfill site.

❒ Alternative G-5: Ground Water Use Restrictions and Natural Attentuation

✶ Natural attenuation refers to the naturally occurring process in the environment that results in a decrease in the concentration of contaminants. Ground water will be monitored periodically to ensure the concentration of contaminants is reduced below health-based levels.

✶ Complies with current state regulations.

✶ Consistent with alternatives being considered to address the area-wide ground water contamination.

- ✶ Does not involve any intrusive disturbances to the site.

- ✶ Can address the entire body of water, whereas the other alternatives cannot.

- ✶ Greatest potential for long-term cost effectiveness.

If monitoring data indicate that contaminant levels do not continue to decline, EPA and NDEQ will reconsider the remedy decision. Planned studies will be implemented to evaluate whether monitored natural attenuation will be successful in attaining remediation objectives for ground water. Until those studies are complete, EPA and NDEQ have determined that the proposed remedy will be implemented as an Interim Action.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

EPA encourages community members to review and comment on the proposed plan for the South Landfill Subsite. If you have questions or need additional information about this site, please contact:

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U.S. EPA Region 7
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901 N. 5th Street
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913-551-7003 or Toll-free 1-800-223-0425